



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

**Human Services
Department**

Catherine L. Lester, Interim Director

MONTHLY REPORT

Prepared for: Councilmember Sally Clark, Chair, Housing Affordability, Human Services and Economic Resiliency Committee
Prepared by: Catherine Lester, Interim Director
Department: Human Services Department (HSD)
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KEY UPDATES MARCH 2014

CRITICAL ISSUES

- **Funding award for education and employment training:** YouthCare was awarded \$250,000 through a Letter of Intent funding process for Youth Build services. Youth Build will provide education and employment training services to low-income black/African American, Latino, Native American and English language learning youth, ages 17 – 24. The youth will earn a GED or high school diploma while learning the construction trades and building or repairing low-income housing. Services will be provided from April 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.
- **Funding award for child care program:** Child Care Resources was awarded \$148,500 through the Letter of Intent funding process to cultivate new family child care providers and increase the quality of care in those settings. We notified the successful and non-successful bidders on March 20, 2014. Technical assistance was offered to the non-successful bidders. A formal announcement is pending.
- **Legislation being developed for social services easement:** HSD will soon submit legislation for the purchase of an easement on property owned by Compass Housing Alliance at 901 Rainier Ave. S. The purpose of the easement is to secure space for an overnight shelter and day center for homeless persons for the next 15 years. This shelter space is key to the City's homeless encampment policy, as it provides the shelter to which people in encampments are referred if their encampments are cleared by City action. This action fulfills a \$400,000 budget initiative approved in the 2014 Adopted Budget, except that federal Community Development Block Grant funds will be used instead of City General Funds.
- **Listening to senior center concerns:** Staff from HSD's Aging & Disability Services and other HSD staff met with representatives from senior centers to discuss their concerns about the upcoming senior center funding process. In addition, a meeting with all senior center directors was held on March 25th. At that meeting staff reported on the funding process and the future work plan including details about community engagement.

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- **Snohomish Mud Slide Response:** HSD's Emergency Planner Jill Watson has been leading the planning efforts for donations and recovery of personal belongings planning in her work in Snohomish County on behalf of the City's EOC. Jill has received high praise for her efforts, from both internal and external partners. "The City of Seattle has been complimented by staff in the EOC, the EOC Director himself, the rescue teams in the field, and the Incident Command Post. Your making Jill available for this assignment has significantly contributed to a phenomenal reputation for the City as a whole," wrote OEM Director Barb Graff. We are grateful for Jill's dedication and passion for her work!

KEY UPDATES

Youth & Family Empowerment (YFE)

- **Preschool funding process closes:** The Request for Investment (RFI) for the Step Ahead preschool program has closed. There are two applicants for 52 slots.
- **Early Learning-funding processes:** The Family Child Care Outreach Project Letter of Intent funding process closed this week on March 10th. We received four applications, which are currently being reviewed by the rating review team. The Step Ahead preschool Request for Investment closed on March 12th. We received two applications that will be forwarded to the rating review team for review on March 14th.
- **Serving more immigrants and refugees:** As a result of the technical assistance provided by Sindy Nguyen, Senior Grants & Contracts Specialist with HSD, Horn of Africa Services consolidated its two tutoring sites to one at Rainier Vista and has doubled the registration to more than 70 immigrant/refugee participants. HSD provided funding for training to strengthen classroom management, volunteer recruitment and lesson planning, which resulted in a successful program redesign, and enabled the program to serve more youth.
- **Preschool for All tour:** HSD's Leilani Dela Cruz participated in the recent Preschool Study Mission Trip to the East Coast and reported that it was both productive and awe inspiring. The 41-person delegation included Mayor Murray, King County Executive Constantine, Councilmembers Bruce Harrell, Sally Bagshaw and Tim Burgess. The delegation visited various preschool classrooms in Boston and Jersey City, NJ, which have both been implementing universal preschool with impressive outcomes.
- **Tutoring program forms partnerships:** The Vietnamese Friendship Association (VFA) Tutoring Program, which is funded by HSD, serves newly arrived English language learner students attending the Seattle World School. VFA has formed three innovative partnerships to support their program participants with literacy and math development:
 1. Jack Straw Production for writing stories that promotes cultural appreciation, learning about grammar, and recording students' pronunciation.
 2. A curriculum developer who recently implemented a weekly intensive pronunciation workshop using an innovative English pronunciation curriculum from Vietnam.
 3. Coyote Central provided a series of cooking and woodshop classes for students to develop vocabulary, communication, and math skills.

- **Summer Food Service Program partnerships:** HSD's Summer Food Service Program coordinator Javier Pulido, along with United Way partners, attended a cross-site meeting of the CHAMPS grant in Nashville, Tennessee, last month. The City of Seattle team shared ideas with grantee cities from across the country. We continue to have monthly technical assistance calls with the grantor, National League of Cities, to keep them updated on how we will increase participation in the Summer Food Service Program as well as initiate After School Meal Programs.

Community Support & Assistance Division (CSA)

- **'Housing stability' funding process:** On March 26th, HSD released a Letter of Intent (LOI) in response to City Council Green Sheet 86-2-A-1, which added \$100,000 in General Funds to provide expanded service capacity for "housing stability," which is described as tenant outreach, education, and technical assistance. This LOI was informed by community conversations, literature review, and a gap analysis conducted with agencies currently providing services in these areas. Awards for funding will cover the period of May 15, 2014 – December 31, 2014.
- **Rapid Rehousing Pilot data:** The Rapid Rehousing for Homeless Families Pilot, which began taking referrals in January 2014, has currently (as of March 3, 2014) enrolled 70 families and moved 10 families in to market rate units. Average household income at entry is \$856 and average monthly rent (full cost) \$957. Nineteen households are employed with 8 of those as permanent positions, 52 are unemployed
- **The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Stakeholders group will convene** on April 21st, 2-4 p.m., in the Bertha Knight Landes Room to provide an orientation and education session for the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and other City staff. The provider community is very interested in the Mayor's goals for HSD's DVSAP program, and this would be a great venue to begin a conversation with them. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- **Sexual Exploitation Response Network:** The Seattle-King County Sexual Exploitation Response Network (Seattle-KCSERN)'s Core Team met on March 17th. Core Team members include staff from HSD, Seattle City Attorney's Office, Seattle Municipal Court, SPD, Organization for Prostitution Survivors, Spruce Street, YouthCare, YWCA, and Washington Anti-trafficking Response Network. In the coming months, Seattle-KCSERN will finalize the MOU among the partners, complete a brochure to be distributed among first responders during trainings, and select a new name to reflect the City of Seattle-centered response.
- **Encampment closures:** HSD partnered with SPD and Parks to successfully close two illegal and problematic homeless encampments. One was located on 4th Ave. under the Yesler St. overpass and had been the scene of a shooting the week prior. Forty individuals were offered access to emergency shelter and four accepted. The other encampment was located at the 1800 block of Eastlake. About 15 individuals were offered access to services: 2 accepted shelter, 1 accepted drug treatment and 2 runaway youth were connected with DSHS.
- **LEAD expansion contract:** HSD is working to finalize the LEAD expansion contract with the Public Defenders Association. We expect this contract will be executed by April 1, 2014.

- **Possible impact of minimum wage increase on UDP:** HSD is reviewing what impact raising the minimum wage would have on the Utility Assistance Programs that HSD administers. Some initial data:
 - 14,002 households are currently enrolled in the UDP.
 - 53% (8004) of UDP households are single person households
 - A single person working full time making \$15 an hour will earn about \$30,000 a year, which is the current threshold for eligibility under the “70% of state median income” criteria.
 - Any household with more than one person in the household where one member is working full time at \$15/hr would still qualify for the program
- **Public safety visit to Portland:** HSD Strategic Advisor Sola Plumacher participated in a Portland “study trip” Thursday March 13, 2014 with a Seattle coalition consisting of Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, SPD, City Attorney’s Office, Gary Johnson with DPD, and representatives of the Alliance for Pioneer Square, MID Advisory Board, Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area , Friends of Waterfront Seattle, Cascade Bicycle Club, Downtown Seattle Association, Commute Seattle, and the Metropolitan Improvement District. The focus for the day-long trip was on public safety and learning as Seattle continues to develop the City Center Initiative. The Portland Business Alliance’s “Clean and Safe” program provided an overview of its program and evolution (with a focus on their direct funding of police officers). Portland Police Chief Mike Reese and the Portland Patrol Inc. provided their perspective on the deployment of officers to the Clean and Safe program and the use of private security companies provided armed and unarmed security downtown. The group ended the day with a discussion with Ed Blackburn, Executive Director of Central City Concern (CCC). CCC contracts directly for the Clean and Safe’s Clean program and runs a robust second chance jobs program. CCC has developed a comprehensive and integrated human service model in the downtown area that includes access to services and lockers/storage to the areas over-night shelter population.

Aging & Disability Services Division (ADS)

- **Regionalism analysis:** Staff from HSD’s Aging & Disability Services briefing the ADS Sponsors group on March 20th about the status of preparing a response to SLI 74-2-A-1 on regional funding options for ADS. The ADS sponsors are the City of Seattle, King County, and United Way of King County.
- **Somali Health Board Partnership:** ADS staff are working with volunteers from the Somali Health Board, an organization comprised of health professionals who develop resources to support the Somali community in King County in developing a new health promotion program for Somali elders. The program will use an evidence-based model to engage Somali elders in south Seattle in exercise and health education activities.
- **Older women:** HSD/ADS staff collaborated with AARP Washington to present [Women to Women: Living Longer, Living Smarter](#) a long-term care planning workshop. The event took place on March 11, at Peoples Institutional Baptist Church, in Central Seattle. Over 100 women participated. ADS staff helped promote the event, provided exhibit materials, and presented two components: “Home and Community” and “Finances”.

- **First responders project:** On March 6th, HSD/ADS staff met with representatives from Public Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and University of Washington School of Public Health to collaborate on a vulnerable population project for first responders. EMS and UW plan to standardize a referral process for vulnerable adults that would benefit from follow-up services. They will use Public Health students to analyze data and evaluate the program. Currently Seattle and Shoreline Fire send potential elder abuse referrals to ADS case management. The current system is not standard across EMS and lacks capacity to address the referrals.
- **Duals Interagency Agreement:** King County Department of Community and Human Services notified HSD this past week that Dow Constantine had signed the Interagency Agreement for the Duals Pilot project. The document will be delivered to HSD and is ready for Mayor Murray's signature.

Departmentwide

- **Possible partnership with Whole Foods on food access:** On March 12th, staff from HSD and OSE met with representatives from Whole Foods – Regional Vice President, Joe Rogoff, and Food Access Coordinator, Amelia Pape – to discuss partnership opportunities for food access efforts. City staff gave an overview of food related programs and initiatives supported by the city, including, emergency food systems, senior meals, and the Farm to Table partnership, and described emerging efforts with the Rainier Beach Food Innovation District and food access research and recommendations for Delridge. Whole Foods is piloting a mobile market in Portland to provide low cost produce and staples to communities with limited access to healthy foods, and they are very interested working with the City and other partners on innovative solutions to improve access to healthy foods for low-income communities.
- **Briefing on mental health:** HSD facilitated a briefing on the mental and behavioral health system, with Jim Vollendorf and Adrienne Quinn at King County DCHS, Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Traci Ratzliff and Quinnie Tan. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the existing mental and behavioral health system, the funding challenges that the County is navigating and to understand potential opportunities for City/County collaboration in the future.
- **Communications Manager Resignation:** David Takami, who has served HSD as a Strategic Advisor and Communications Manager for the past seven years, is moving on to a Strategic Advisor position at the Parks Department. He has done a wonderful job for the department during his tenure, and while we will miss him, we also wish him well in his new endeavor. David's last day will be on April 8th.

MEDIA

- **Utility Discount Program:** Real Change News featured a story on the Utility Discount Program in its March 26th issue. The reporter had interviewed the Mayor, several City Councilmembers and HSD division director Jason Johnson and UDP coordinator Chaney Kilpatrick-Goodwill about the application process.